ENGLISHMAN RIVER FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

February 2003

Approved by:

D Heath

Dick Heath
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Feb. 3/03

Nancy Wilkin

Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Feb 7 4/03

ENGLISHMAN RIVER FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of Englishman River Falls Park is to provide recreational opportunities in the popular destination area of the Mid Island of Vancouver Island. Originally established to protect the picturesque falls, it serves as a secondary attraction to the beaches of the Mid Island. It provides a camping alternative to Rathtrevor Beach Park, and is a point of interest on the Pacific Rim corridor. It provides camping opportunities in a popular destination area, where the private provision of campgrounds is decreasing as they are being developed into housing subdivisions. The park is also a destination for local recreationists, for day use activities such as swimming, hiking, picnicking and nature appreciation.

Englishman River Falls Park is located 13 kilometres southwest of Parksville on Errington Road off Highway 4. The 97 hectare park contains a campground with 103 sites and a day use area with a picnic shelter and flush toilets as well as an adventure playground. There are three kilometres of trails situated in the old growth forest and along the river. At the lower falls, there is a swimming hole with a small rocky beach area which is popular with sunbathers.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role is to protect the natural environment in which people come to recreate. Given the size of this park, it makes a small contribution to the protection of the Nanaimo Lowlands Ecosection (NAL), which is a major landscape component of Vancouver Island. This ecosection has been highly modified through settlement and development and is under-represented within the protected areas system at 1.4%. In total, 35 small parks assist in providing representation of NAL.

The park also makes a small contribution to protecting an example of Coastal Western Hemlock xm1, which has only 2% protected in the province. The CWH xm1 biogeoclimatic variant is primarily located on the east side of Vancouver Island and has been highly modified. Not much of this variant remains intact and any protected area that contributes to its protection may be considered important.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of knowledge of fossils and cultural values to adequately protect them	➢ Undertake an inventory and assessment of fossils and cultural values. ➢ Develop monitoring program to protect fossils and cultural values.
Adjacent land use could put park values at risk	➢ Work with adjacent land owners, Ministry of Transportation and interest groups to address issues that may affect park values.
Recreation impacts on park values	➢ Develop interpretative materials to educate park visitors on park values and appropriate behaviour.
Safety of park visitors	➢ Develop education materials to inform park visitors on the hazards on the river.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation Zone – covers the 'built' environment, day use facilities and campground to provide a variety of readily accessible, family-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities (approximately 31 ha or 32% of the park).

Natural Environment Zone – covers the rest of the park (approximately 66 ha or 68% of the park). It protects scenic values, provides the natural largely undisturbed background for recreation and contributes to the protection of conservation values.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Contributes minimally to the representation of the Nanaimo Lowlands Ecosection. This ecosection is under-represented in the protected areas system (1.4%). Englishman River Falls contributes only 1.96% to the overall representation of this ecosection.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Contributes minimally to the representation of CWHxm1 which is under-represented in the protected areas system (2.07%). Englishman River Falls contributes only 1.07% to the overall representation of CWHxm1.
Special Feature	☒	Waterfalls, fossils, green sturgeon, old growth Douglas fir, steelhead, eskers
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	Two blue-listed plant species: woodland penstemon; Macoun's groundsel
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Green sturgeon, rare species

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Camping, nature appreciation
travel corridor	☒	A stop along the Pacific Rim corridor
local recreation	☒	Regional day use and destination use
Special Opportunities	☐	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Geology – falls, faults, eskers

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Values not well known
Special Feature	☒	Possible spiritual sites associated with falls

Other Management Considerations

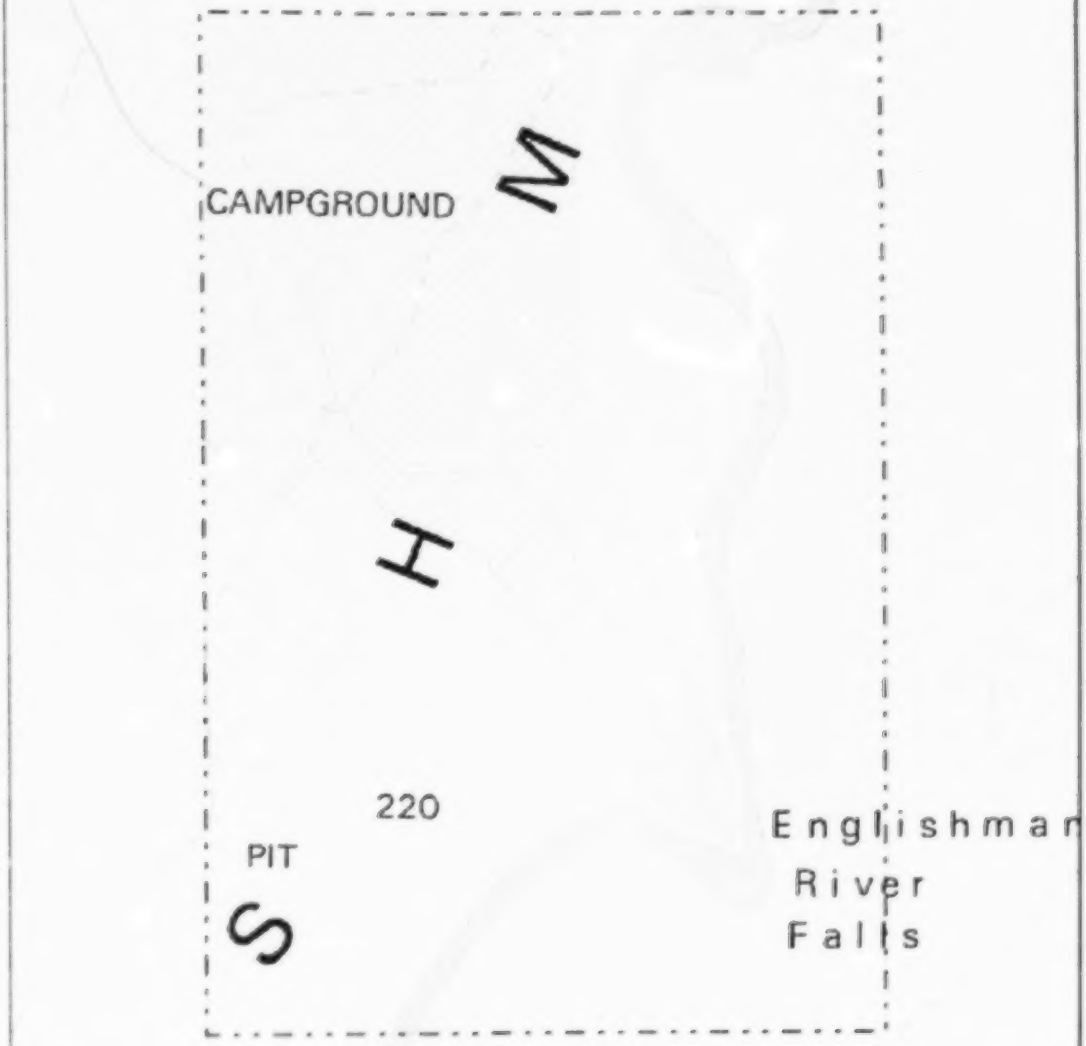
Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of system of protected areas in popular destination area (including Rathtrevor Beach, Little Qualicum Falls, Horne Lake Caves)
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	Not Applicable

Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	Recreational impacts on rare species, including fish; small size of protected area and ability to provide viable representation of ecosection and biogeoclimatic variant
Relationship to other Strategies	☐	Not Applicable

Area: 97 hectares

Date of establishment: December 20, 1940

Zoning Map - Englishman River Falls Provincial Park



Intensive Recreation

Natural Environment

Protected Area Boundary